

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ROMANIAN AGRICULTURAL SITUATION

REF: (A) BELGRADE 6325; (B) LOPEZ-SVEC TELECON

1. ON SEPT 30 TANJUG CARRIED SPECIAL REPORT ON ROMANIAN AGRICULTURE INCLUDING GRAIN SITUATION, THE REPORT STATES QUOTE ROMANIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ESTIMATES THIS YEAR'S WHEAT CROP AT SIX MILLION METRIC TONS WITH AN AVERAGE YIELD OF ABOUT 2,600 KILOGRAMS PER HECTARE. THIS WOULD BE BETTER YIELD THAN LAST YEAR'S, WHEN THE TOTAL PRODUCTION IN THE COUNTRY WAS 600,000 TONS LOWER THAN THIS YEAR. LOCAL OFFICIALS EXPECT CONSIDERABLY BETTER CORN YIELDS FROM 3.5 MILLION HECTARES PLANTED UNDER THIS AGRICULTURAL CROP AND THEY ESTIMATE TOTAL PRODUCTION ABOVE LAST YEAR'S LEVEL, WHEN 8.5 MILLION TONS WERE HARVESTED UNQUOTE.

2. UNLESS MAJOR REVISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE IN 1975 WHEAT AND CORN PRODUCTION ESTIMATES, PART OF THE TANJUG REPORT ARE IN ERROR. HOWEVER, WHEAT PRODUCTION ESTIMATE AGREES WITH FIGURE GIVEN BY MINISTER MICULESCU TO THE AMBASSADOR.

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A WHEAT CROP OF 6.0 MILLION MT WOULD GIVE ROMANIA AN EXPORTABLE SUPPLY ODNAT LEAST 1.0 MMT.

3. AS OF SEPT 5, 159,300 TONS OF US SOFT RED WINTER WHEAT HAS BEEN SHIPPED TO ROMANIA. YUGOSLAVIA RECENTLY PURCHASED 500,000 TONS OF ROMANIAN WHEAT FOR 1976-77 DELIVERY.

4. IF CORN AREA WAS EXPANDED TO 3.5 MILLION HECTARES AS INDICATED IN TANJUG REPORT, CORN YIELDS WOULD HAVE TO BE AT RECORD LEVELS OR 13 PER CENT ABOVE 1975 LEVEL TO PRODUCE 11.0 MILLION TONS. IN LIGHT OF WEATHER CONDITIONS TO DATE, AG ATTACHE IS SKEPTICAL OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF RECORD CORN YIELDS UNLESS THERE HAS BEEN A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN THE APPLICATION OF FERTILIZER. HOWEVER 3.5 MILLION HECTARES WOULD PRODUCE ABOUT 800,000 MORE CORN THAN 3.2 MILLION HECTARE ESTIMATE USED IN REF A.
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